

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 82ISLAMA008451

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MILITARY ADDRESSES FOR POLADS
FOR RP/IAR
ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 12065: RDS 06/01/92 (KING, B.) OR-M
TAGS: SREF, EAID, MOPS, XD, PK, RU
SUBJECT: (U) AFGHAN REFUGEE PROGRAM UPDATE:
NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

1. (U) FOLLOWING REPORT REFLECTS RESULTS OF A 5-DAY,
700-MILE TOUR OF AFGHAN REFUGEE VILLAGES AND MEETINGS
WITH UNHCR, WFP AND GOP OFFICIALS AND REFUGEE
LEADERS IN PESHAWAR, KURRAM AGENCY, NORTH WAZIRISTAN
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AGENCY AND BANNU DISTRICT, MAY 23-27.

2. (CONFIDENTIAL-ENTIRE TEXT. PLEASE PROTECT SOURCES.)

3. SUMMARY: AFGHAN REFUGEE RELIEF PROGRAM HAS CONTINUED
TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF CARE PROVIDED THE WORLD'S
LARGEST REFUGEE POPULATION. IN THE NORTHWEST FRONTIER
PROVINCE (NWFP), WHICH CONTAINS ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF
PAKISTAN'S 2.65 MILLION REGISTERED AFGHAN REFUGEES.

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THE DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF SUPPLIES AND PROVISION OF MEDICAL CARE, IN PARTICULAR, APPEAR TO HAVE DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED OVER THE PAST YEAR. SERIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH CONTINUE TO PLAGUE THE REFUGEE PROGRAM IN THE NWFP ARE THE DISAPPEARANCE OF LAND AVAILABLE FOR REFUGEE SETTLEMENT AND SEASONAL MIGRATION, THE UNCEASING PRESSURE ON PAKISTAN'S FORESTRY RESOURCES AND A HALT IN REGISTRATION OF REFUGEES IN MOST OF THE NWFP WHICH LEFT THOUSANDS OF LEGITIMATE REFUGEES WITHOUT ACCESS TO RELIEF COMMODITIES. THE MUJAHIDEEN, AND A SURPRISING NUMBER OF GOP OFFICIALS, APPEAR OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THE JIHAD AGAINST THE USSR

AND CONTEND THAT

THE RESISTANCE

CAN DEFEAT THE SOVIETS. END SUMMARY.

4. HOW MANY REFUGEES? ACCORDING TO GOP DATA, AS OF THE END OF MARCH 1982, THE NWFP CONTAINED 2.17 MILLION REGISTERED AFGHAN REFUGEES, OUT OF A NATIONWIDE TOTAL OF 2.65 MILLION. WFP ESTIMATED THAT IN MARCH COMMODITIES WERE DISTRIBUTED TO 1.6 MILLION REFUGEES IN NWFP.

WITH UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE, THE GOP CURRENTLY OPERATES 263 REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE PROVINCE AND A SMALL NUMBER OF "TRANSIT" CAMPS NEAR THE MAJOR

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BORDER CROSSING POINTS TO FACILITATE THE PRELIMINARY RECORDING OF NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEES AND TO PROVIDE THEM ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS FOR TRIP TO CAMPS WHERE REGISTRATION CONTINUES: CURRENTLY, ONLY IN MALAKAND AGENCY AND SWAT. NWFP REFUGEE COMMISSIONER ABDULLAH "FROZE" REGISTRATION ELSEWHERE IN NWFP FOLLOWING ADVERSE INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY ABOUT GROSS INFLATION IN REFUGEE REGISTRATION FIGURES.

HIS ORGANIZATION WAS "STREAMLINING" THE REGISTRATION PROCESS, INVESTIGATING IRREGULARITIES IN REGISTRATION OF REFUGEES AND DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF SUPPLIES AND, WHERE NECESSARY, TAKING REMEDIAL ACTION, E.G. DISMISSING CORRUPT OR INEFFICIENT OFFICIALS, CANCELLING BOGUS REGISTRATIONS. IN SOME AREAS, "STREAMLINING" HAD RESULTED IN 20 PERCENT REDUCTIONS IN REGISTERED REFUGEE POPULATION; IN BANNU DISTRICT, FOR EXAMPLE, CAMP RECORDS SHOWED A DECLINE IN THE REGISTERED REFUGEE POPULATION FROM OVER 61,000 TO SOME 50,000, WHILE IN NORTH WAZIRISTAN AGENCY, THE REFUGEE POPULATION DECLINED BY NEARLY 28,000 TO TOTAL OF ABOUT 200,000.

TOLD EMBASSY OFFICIALS THAT THE GOP HAS MANAGED TO REMOVE SOME 200,000 "BOGUS" REFUGEE NAMES FROM THE ROLLS NATIONWIDE.

POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, PRECISE TOTAL OF REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN WILL NEVER EMERGE: THE REFUGEES DO NOT COOPERATE WITH

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CENSUS EFFORTS-ESPECIALLY IF BENEFITS MAY BE LOST AS
A RESULT. [OBSERVED THAT LOCAL TRIBESMEN
IN NORTH WAZIRISTAN HAD, IN MANY CASES, REFUSED TO
COOPERATE WITH GOP 1980 CENSUS, CONSIDERING IT AN
UNWANTED INVASION OF PRIVACY.)

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5. "STREAMLINING" HAD UNFORTUNATELY, LEFT A NUMBER OF

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LEGITIMATE REFUGEES "OUT IN THE COLD". BANNU
DISTRICT AND NORTH WAZIRISTAN AGENCY EACH CONTAINED
OVER 20,000 "ENLISTED" REFUGEES--THEIR PRESENCE OFFICIA-
LLY RECOGNIZED BY GOP--BUT NOT "REGISTERED"--ENTERED ONTO
A CAMP'S RECORDS-- AND THEREFORE INELIGIBLE FOR RELIEF.
OFFICIALS REPORTED
THAT MANY REFUGEES REFUSED TO MOVE TO "OPEN" SWAT AND
MALAKAND AGENCY CAMPS SINCE THESE AREAS LAY LONG
DISTANCE FROM BORDER, AND JIHAD IN AFGHANISTAN.
AUTHORITIES IN NORTH WAZIRISTAN HAD REQUESTED THE REFUGEE
RELIEF ADMINISTRATION TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF SOME
BASIC SUPPLIES TO THE UNREGISTERED REFUGEES SINCE MANY
WERE IN A "SORRY STATE." (COMMENT: EMBOFFS DID NOT
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CONFIRM THIS.) MOST OF THESE REFUGEES, HOWEVER,
APPEAR TO SUBSIST ADEQUATELY BY SHARING THE RELIEF
SUPPLIES OF THEIR REGISTERED COMPATRIOTS.

6. SEASONAL MIGRATION OF REFUGEES APPEARED BELOW
LEVEL OF PREVIOUS YEARS.
A LACK OF AVAILABLE LAND IN TRADITIONAL AREAS
OF MIGRATION AND TIGHTENED PROCEDURES FOR DISTRIBU-
TION OF RELIEF COMMODITIES HAD DISCOURAGED MANY

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REFUGEES FROM SHIFTING TO COOLER AND GENERALLY CROWDED MOUNTAIN AREAS DURING THE SUMMER. IN KURRAM AGENCY, WHERE REGISTERED AND UNREGISTERED REFUGEES, ALREADY OUTNUMBER THE LOCAL POPULATION OF 300,000, AUTHORITIES HAVE DISCOURAGED THE MIGRATION OF REFUGEES FROM WARMER AREAS; THEY ESTABLISHED ONE CAMP TO RECEIVE MIGRANTS AND WHEN THIS CAMP WAS FILLED, THEY PLANNED TO TURN BACK OTHER REFUGEES AND DENY SUPPLIES TO ANY WHO MANAGE TO SLIP THROUGH. IN NORTH WZAIRISTAN, WITH A REFUGEE POPULATION OF 200,000 AND A LOCAL POPULATION OF 232,000, AUTHORITIES ALSO APPEARED CONCERNED AND HOPE THEY COULD AVOID A MASSIVE MIGRATION OF REFUGEES SINCE AVAILABLE LAND WAS SCARCE.

3. NONE OF THE OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE SPOKE REPORTED ANY SIGNIFICANT INFLUX OF REFUGEES FROM ACROSS THE BORDER IN 1982.

SAID NEW REFUGEES "TRICKLED IN" THROUGH THE KHARLACHI AND TRIMENGAL PASSES AT A REDUCED RATE FROM PREVIOUS YEARS. OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT A LARGE FLOW OF REFUGEES COULD RESUME IF FIGHTING IN THE PANJSHER GREW WORSE OR IF THE SOVIETS LAUNCHED A MAJOR WARM-WEATHER OFFENSIVE IN AFGHANISTAN. DESPITE THIS RELATIVELY SMALL "TRICKLE", RELIEF OFFICIALS EXPECTED

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THE NATIONWIDE REFUGEE POPULATION TOTAL TO REACH 3 MILLION BY YEAR'S END, WITH APPROXIMATELY 2.4 MILLION IN THE NWFP. REGISTRATION WAS CONTINUING IN MALAKAND AND SWAT AND WOULD PROBABLY RESUME ELSEWHERE TO AVOID LAW-AND-ORDER AND HEALTH PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD ARISE FROM A LARGE, UNREGISTERED AND UNPROVISIONED REFUGEE POPULATION.

8. STAFFING, COMMODITIES, DISTRIBUTION AND CORRUPTION: GOP, UNHCR, AND WFP REPRESENTATIVES CLAIMED THEY HAD SOLVED THE STAFFING PROBLEMS IN THE NWFP'S REFUGEE RELIEF PROGRAM. OVER 90 PERCENT OF THE POSITIONS SANCTIONED BY THE GOP FOR THE NWFP PROGRAM HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN FILLED DESPITE LOW PAY, LONG HOURS AND POOR WORKING CONDITIONS

TOLD EMBOFFS THAT NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS OF 53 VACANT SLOTS IN THE DISTRICT REFUGEE ADMINISTRATION, OF WHICH NONE CARRIED SALARY GREATER THAN DOLS 55/MONTH, DREW OVER 700 APPLICATIONS FROM PERSONS WITH MA OR MBA DEGREES (COMMENT: APPARENTLY A JOB WITH THE REFUGEE PROGRAM NOW APPEARS MORE STABLE AND LONG-TERM.) NUMBER OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL AVAILABLE TO REFUGEE PROGRAM HAD ALSO INCREASED: 22 MOBILE MEDICAL TEAMS (7 OF THEM HEADED BY AFGHAN DOCTORS, THE REST BY PAKISTANI MDS) SERVED KURRAM'S 32 CAMPS, IN NORTH WAZIRISTAN 14 MOBILE MEDICAL TEAMS COVERED

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THAT AGENCY'S 31 CAMPS. WFP AND GOP OFFICIALS STATED
THAT THEY HAD CLEARED UP NUMEROUS TRANSPORTATION BOTTLE-
NECKS AND THAT WITH ON-GOING RAPID CONSTRUCTION OF
BINI-SHELLS. SUPPLIES REACHED THE REFUGGES MORE QUICKLY
AND REGULARLY THAN BEFORE. /

ALL RELIEF SUPPLIES IN HIS
DISTRICT WERE PASSED OUT DIRECTLY TO HEADS-OF-FAMILY
INSTEAD OF THROUGH TRIBAL LEADERS: "THE MALIK SYSTEM IS

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FINISHED." HE CLAIMED. OTHER OFFICIALS, HOWEVER,
POINTED OUT THAT THE TRIBAL CHIEFS PROBABLY STILL
DETERMINED WHAT THE REFUGEE HEADS-OF-FAMILY DID WITH
THEIR COMMODITIES CLAIMED
THAT REFUGEE LIFE HAD IN FACT RESTORED THE TRADITIONAL
POWER OF THE MALIKS WHICH HAD BEEN IN THE PROCESS OF
DISINTEGRATION UNDER THE SAUR REVOLUTION. MALIKS
WERE NOW ALMOST EVERYWHERE SEEN AS THE INTERMEDIARIES
BETWEEN THE REFUGEES AND PAKISTANI AND INTERNATIONAL
OFFICIALDOM.

9. DIFFICULTIES REMAINED IN SUPPLYING REGULAR AND SUFFI-
CIENT AMOUNTS OF DSM AND VEGOIL TO THE REFUGEES.

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ACCORDING TO WFP AND GOP OFFICIALS, SUPPLIES OF BOTH
OF THESE COMMODITIES HAD BEEN EXHAUSTED. ALSO
POSING POTENTIAL TROUBLE WERE RUMOURS OF A DOMESTIC
WHEAT CROP PERHAPS SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW THAT ORIGINALLY
PREDICTED DUE TO AN UNUSUALLY LONG RAINY SEASON.
REDUCED WHEAT CROP, OR THE PROSPECT OF SUCH, COULD
INCREASE FOOD DEPARTMENT HESITATION IN RELEASING
GRAIN FOR REFUGEES UNLESS DONOR PLEDGES AND ACTUAL
SHIPMENTS WERE RECEIVED WITH MORE REGULARITY. WHILE THE

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TRANSPORTATION PICTURE HAD UNDOUBTEDLY IMPROVED WITH THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE MILITARY-RUN NATIONAL LOGISTICS CELL (NLC). PROBLEMS CONTINUED TO ARISE IN THIS AREA LARGELY BECAUSE OF RELIANCE ON GENERALLY UNPREDICTABLE PRIVATE TRUCK CONTRACTORS. IN KURRAM, (

HAD SOUGHT TO RESOLVE A DISPUTE BETWEEN PAKISTANI TRUCK OPERATORS UNHAPPY WITH WHAT THEY CONSIDERED UNFAIR COMPETITION FROM UNLICENSED AFGHAN REFUGEE TRUCKERS OFFERING REDUCED RATES FOR RELIEF GOOD TRANSPORTATION.

ANOTHER LOGISTICS PROBLEM EXISTED IN SUPPLYING REFUGEE CAMPS ON THE SOUTHWEST BANK OF THE KURRAM

RIVER WHICH WERE VIRTUALLY ISOLATED FOLLOWING AN ATTEMPT BY AN AFGHAN TRUCKER TO DRIVE A 20-TON LOAD ACROSS A 12-TON RATED BRIDGE: THE TRUCK AND ONE SPAN OF THE BRIDGE FELL INTO THE MUDDY KURRAM RIVER (COMMENT: EMBOFFS SAW THE SITE OF TEH MISHAP). BASED ON CONVERSATION WITH OFFICIALS, ONLY A FEW CAMPS HAD RECEIVED THE GOP-PROVIDED CASH ALLOWANCE OF RS.50/ MONTH PER REFUGEE AND THEN ONLY TWICE "THIS" YEAR: PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN FOR FEBRUARY 1981 AND APRIL 1981.

10. REFUGEES AND OFFICIALS REPORTED A SHORTAGE OF TENTS AND FIREWOOD. TENTS IN KURRAM AGENCY LAST AT MOST 6 TO 8 MONTHS BECAUSE OF HEAVY RAINFALL, FREQUENT HAIL.

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STRONG WIND AND IMPROPER MAINTENANCE. SAID HE HAD SOUGHT TO ALLEVIATE THIS SHORTAGE BY PROVIDING ROOFING MATERIAL FOR KETCHA (MUD) HOUSES WHEREVER LOCAL RESIDENTS DID NOT OBJECT. FIREWOOD REMAINED IN SHORT SUPPLY WITH THE PRICE RISING AND DAMAGE TO FORESTRY RESERVES CONTINUING. THE KEROSENE DISTRIBUTION PROJECT HAD NOT MANAGED TO GET OFF THE MARK DUE TO SERIOUS SUPPLY SHORTAGES, LACK OF APPROPRIATE TRANSPORT AND STORAGE FACILITIES AND REFUGEE RESISTANCE TO USING KEROSENE FOR COOKING.

11. SEVERAL OF THE CAMPS WE VISITED HAD FUNCTIONING SCHOOLS. MOST OF THE TEACHERS WERE REFUGEES AND INSTRUCTED THEIR STUDENTS IN: MATHEMATICS, PUSHTO, ISLAMIYA (RELIGIOUS STUDIES WITH A HEAVY DOSE OF JIAHD LORE), OCCASIONALLY HISTORY OF AFGHANISTAN AND, SIGNIFICANTLY, URDU, PAKISTAN'S OFFICIAL LANGUAGE. ALTHOUGH ATTENDANCE DID NOT APPEAR TO BE HIGH, 125-150 OUT OF A CAMP POPULATION OF PERHAPS 500-700 SCHOOL-AGE BOYS, THE REFUGEES, ACCORDING TO TEACHERS AND CAMP OFFICIALS, INCREASINGLY VALUED EDUCATION AS THEY CAME TO REALIZE THAT THEIR STAY IN PAKISTAN MIGHT BE A LONG ONE. FEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFUGEES EXISTED IN THE LOCAL MARKET; A RELATIVELY WELL-EDUCATED, GERMAN-SPEAKING REFUGEE LEADER TOLD US

THAT DESPITE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS TO THE CONTRARY.
LOCAL EMPLOYMENT OF AFGHANS WAS NOT ENCOURAGED.
(COMMENT: JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE ALSO
SCARCE.)

12. THE REFUGEE ADMINISTRATION APPEARED SERIOUS ABOUT
STAMPING OUT CORRUPTION IN THE RELIEF PROGRAM.
NOTED THAT IN EARLY MAY, OUT OF A

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SHIPMENT TO BAJAUR AGENCY OF 75 US-DONATED 55-GAL VEGOIL
DRUMS, 52 HAD HAD THE SEALS BROKEN AND 18 WERE COMPLETELY
DRAINED AND RE-FILLED WITH WATER. IN ADDITION, 47
MTS GRAIN, ALSO DESTINED FOR BAJAUR, HAD DISAPPEARED
ENROUTE. WHEN INFORMED BY WFP AND UNHCR MONITORS
OF THE IRREGULARITIES, ABDULLAH HAD QUICKLY UNDERTAKEN
AN INVESTIGATION AND A PRIVATE TRUCKING CONTRACTOR HAD
ADMITTED TO THE THEFT IN WRITING. ABDULLAH ORDERED THE
GUILTY TO MAKE GOOD THE LOSS AND, WITH WFP ENCOURAGE-
MENT, WAS CONTEMPLATING LEGAL ACTION.13. REFUGEE HEALTH: OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE DELIVERY OF
MEDICAL AND OTHER HEALTH SERVICES TO THE REFUGEESCONFIDENTIAL
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HAS IMPROVED. WHILE SHORTAGES EXISTED OF SOME
HEALTH CARE RELATED ITEMS, SUCH AS MULTI-VITAMINS AND
PROTEIN SUPPLEMENTS, DOCTORS REPORTED GENERALLY
SATISFACTORY STOCKS OF ESSENTIAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES.
THE GENERAL HOSPITAL IN PARACHINAR WAS UNDERGOING
EXTENSIVE UPGRADING, REPORTEDLY WITH SAUDI RED
CRESCENT FINANCING, TO ENABLE IT TO RECEIVE THE
SEVERELY WOUNDED MUJAHIDEEN NOW SENT ON A LONG AND
ARDUOUS ATUMOBILE RIDE TO HOSPITALS IN

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PESHAWAR. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) HAS OPERATED TWO AMBULANCES IN PARACHINAR WHICH MEET WOUNDED FREEDOM FIGHTERS AS THEY CROSS THE BORDER AND TAKE THEM TO THE ICRC'S EXCELLENT SURGICAL HOSPITAL IN PESHAWAR.

14. ACCORDING TO DOCTORS WORKING IN TWO CAMPS, THE NUTRITIONAL PICTURE WAS NOT AS GOOD AS HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN BELIEVED. AS MORE DOCTORS AND STAFF HAD GOTTEN INTO PLACE THEY HAD REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED A HIGHER INCIDENCE OF MAL-NUTRITION THAN PREVIOUSLY.

THE SHORTAGE OF MILK, VEGETABLES, FRUITS AND TRADITIONAL FAT-LADEN AFGHAN COOKING GREASE CAUSED ASSORTED DIETARY PROBLEMS ESPECIALLY AMONG YOUNG CHILDREN AND WOMEN. DOCTORS CLAIMED THAT A SHORTAGE OF VITAMINS AND HIGH-PROTEIN SUPPLEMENTS, SUCH AS THE POPULAR AUSTRALIAN-SUPPLIED BISCUITS, LIMITED THE MEDICAL TEAMS' ABILITY TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM. PARTICULARLY SINCE FAILURE OF THE REFUGEE ORGANIZATION TO PAY THE MONTHLY CASH ALLOWANCE ELIMINATED MOST REFUGEES FROM THE LOCAL FOOD MARKET. BARREN, INHOSPITABLE CAMP SITES AND OPPOSITION FROM RESIDENTS HAD PREVENTED THE REFUGEES FROM GROWING VEGETABLES IN MOST AREAS. WHILE THE REFUGEES WERE FAR FROM STARVATION, NUTRI-
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TIONAL PROBLEMS APPEAR TO BE A GROWING CONCERN PARTICULARLY WHEN VIEWED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NOW MORE RESTRICTED FREEDOM FOR SEASONAL MIGRATION WHICH HAS MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR REFUGEES TO ESCAPE THE HEAT-RELATED DISEASES, MALARIA, DYSENTERY. (COMMENT: EMBOFFS WERE UNABLE TO CONFIRM THE DOCTORS' ALLEGATIONS AND INTEND TO EXPLORE THIS SUBJECT FURTHER WITH UNHCR.)

15. PROBLEMS OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE NATURE ALSO APPEARED TO HAMPER THE MEDICAL CARE SYSTEM. UPON VISITING BARA KHEL CAMP, NEAR BANNU, EMBOFFS ENCOUNTERED A WEIRD TABLEAU: ALTHOUGH NOT A SINGLE REFUGEE REMAINED IN BARA KHEL, THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF SOME 6,000 HAVING MIGRATED, A DOCTOR AND HIS FEMALE AIDE REMAINED SITTING IN A TENT IN THE MIDDLE OF A ROCKY WASTELAND, WAITING TO ATTEND NON-EXISTENT PATIENTS. WHEN ASKED BY EMBOFFS WHY HE REMAINED WHERE THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO, THE DOCTOR RESPONDED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO BARA KHEL AND WOULD REMAIN THERE UNTIL DIFFERENT INSTRUCTIONS WERE RECEIVED. (COMMENT: EMBOFFS SUGGESTED TO THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR THAT THE DOCTOR BE SHIFTED TO WHERE HE MIGHT DO SOME GOOD. THAT HE COULD NOTHING UNLESS HE RECEIVED AUTHORIZATION FROM THE DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER. WE INTEND TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH UNHCR, WHICH PAYS

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THE DOCTORS, BY LOCAL STANDARDS, NOT INCONSIDERABLE
SALARY.)

16. LAW AND ORDER: LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES REPORTED
NO SIGNIFICANT DISTURBANCES OF THE PUBLIC ORDER
RESULTING FROM THE REFUGEE PRESENCE. THE AFGHAN REFUGEES
HAD IMPRESSED THEIR PAKISTANI HOSTS WITH THEIR DISCIPLINE
AND GENUINE GRATITUDE FOR THE AID PROVIDED

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THEM. NEVERTHELESS, IN THE ALWAYS VOLATILE TRIBAL AGENCIES, POLITICAL AGENTS STATED THAT LAW-AND-ORDER REMAINED THEIR GREATEST CONCERN BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET-SPONSORED MISCHIEF-MAKING; EVEN THE MOST MINOR ALTERCATIONS HAD TO RECEIVE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO PREVENT ANY UNREST FROM DEVELOPING INTO SITUATION WHICH MIGHT BE EXPLOITED BY SOVIET AGENTS. KURRAM STATED THAT PRIOR TO THE SOVIET TAKE-OVER IN AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN'S WESTERN-TRAINED SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES HAD LITTLE TROUBLE IN DEALING WITH THE RELATIVELY UNSOPHISTICATED EFFORTS OF KABUL TO STIR UP TROUBLE IN PAKISTAN'S TRIBAL AGENCIES. THE SITUATION, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL
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HAD CHANGED AND NOW PAKISTAN'S SECURITY WAS THREATENED BY A MUCH MORE CLEVER AND POWERFUL ENEMY. LAW ENFORCEMENT

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OFFICIALS SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED AS YET UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT SOVIET-SUPPLIED FUNDS WERE ENTERING THE AGENCIES, BUT ACCORDING TO NORTH WAZIRISTAN, SOVIET EFFORTS TO WIN OVER, THROUGH BRIBERY AND APPEALS, THE TRIBESMEN ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER WERE TOO LATE: "AFTER WHAT THEY HAVE DONE IN AFGHANISTAN, WHO TRUSTS THEM?" OFFICIALS STILL SEEMED CONFIDENT THAT ANY HOSTILE AGENTS AMONG THE REFUGEES WOULD BE QUICKLY SPOTTED AND TURNED IN BY THE REFUGEES THEMSELVES. ONE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL POINTED OUT THAT THE AFGHAN REFUGEES HAD ADJUSTED VERY QUICKLY TO LIFE IN PAKISTAN AND THAT THEY HAD DONE SO WITH LESS TROUBLE THAN REFUGEES FROM INDIA AND BANGLADESH.

17. JIHAD: REFUGEES AND GOP OFFICIALS SEEMED REMARKABLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE RESISTANCE'S ABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE SOVIETS. AS LONG AS SOME LIMITED AID CAME FROM OUTSIDE AND PAKISTAN CONTINUED TO OFFER SAFE-HAVEN TO THE REFUGEES, PAKISTANIS WHOM WE MET FELT THAT TIME WAS ON THE SIDE OF THE RESISTANCE AS THE AFGHANS WERE MOTIVATED TO FIGHT ON FOR YEARS TO COME, THE SOVIETS WERE NOT. SOME CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED OVER THE PERCEIVED GROWING LACK OF INTEREST IN THE AFGHAN WAR AMONG THE WESTERN MEDIA AND PUBLIC.

WORRIED ALOUD ABOUT A POSSIBLE "YALTA SETTLEMENT" WHICH WOULD SELL OUT THE RESISTANCE IN FAVOR OF "BUSINESS AS USUAL" WITH THE SOVIETS. AS A RULE, HOWEVER, AFGHANS AND PAKISTANIS HAD CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, CLAIMING THAT THE RESISTANCE HAD ACHIEVED CONSIDERABLE
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SUCCESS AGAINST SOVIET ARMOR: ANTI-TANK WEAPONS WERE REPORTEDLY IN GOOD SUPPLY AND WELL-EMPLOYED. TO JUDGE FROM A THUNDEROUS GREETING OF AUTOMATIC WEAPONS' FIRE ACCORDED EMOFFS IN ONE CAMP IN NORTH WAZIRISTAN, AMMUNITION SEEMED PLENTIFUL (COMMENT: WHEN EMOFF SAID TO A REFUGEE THAT AMMUNITION USED IN GREETING US WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER EMPLOYED IN AFGHANISTAN, THE AFGHAN REPLIED "DON'T WORRY, FRIENDLY COUNTRIES GIVE US LOTS OF BULLETS.") THE MUJAHIDEEN COMPLAINED, HOWEVER, ABOUT INSUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS WITH WHICH TO DOWN THE FEARED SOVIET HELICOPTERS.

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REFUGEES CLAIMED TO HAVE WITNESSED A SOVIET GAS ATTACK ON RESISTANCE POSITIONS NEAR THE TOWN OF KHOWST IN EARLY MAY OR LATE APRIL. HELICOPTERS DROPPED GAS CANISTERS FOLLOWED BY A FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT ATTACK OF NAPALM OR PHOSPHOROUS-TYPE BOMBS. THE GAS APPARENTLY WAS SOME SORT OF KNOCK-OUT OR SMOTHER GAS WHICH CAUSED ITS VICTIMS SEVERE EYE IRRITATION, CHEST PAINS, COUGHING, UNCONCIOUSNESS AND IN SOME CASES EVEN DEATH. THOSE AFFECTED BY THE GAS WHO DID NOT DIE EITHER FROM ITS EFFECTS OR FROM THE FOLLOW-UP NAPALM ATTACK RECOVERED COMPLETELY WITHIN THREE OR FOUR DAYS.

18. AFGHANS AND PAKISTANIS EXPRESSED CONTEMPT FOR MOST SOVIET WEAPONS AND FOR THE FIGHTING PROWESS OF SOVIET TROOPS. IN THE COURTYARD OF THE TOCHI SCOUTS FORT IN MIRAN SHAH, THE OFFICERS HAD PLACED AN UNEXPLODED 500 LB. BOMB ON A PEDESTAL AND INSCRIBED ON THE BOMB THE LEGEND "FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE: 500 LB BOMB DROPPED BY SOVIET AIRCRAFT ON PAKISTAN. APRIL 1980." ONE OFFICER POINTED TO THE BOMB AS AN EXAMPLE OF UNRELIABLE SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT: "AMERICAN EQUIPMENT IS

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.....TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4460
.....INFO USMISSION GENEVA
.....AMEMBASSY KABUL
.....USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
.....AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
.....AMEMBASSY ROME
.....AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
.....AMCONSUL KARACHI
.....CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
.....USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
.....COMROJTF MACDILL AFB FL
.....AMCONSUL PESHAWAR POUCH
.....AMCONSUL LAHORE POUCH

.....C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 06 OF 06 ISLAMABAD 08451

.....THE BEST." IN THE BAZAARS OF KURRAM AGENCY

.....CHINESE-MADE AK-47S HAD A BETTER REPUTATION AND DREW
.....A BETTER PRICE THAN THE SOVIET-MADE VERSION (APPROXI-
.....MATELY DOLS 3500 VS DOLS 2500). CLAIMED
.....THAT THE NEW HIGH-VELOCITY, SMALL CALIBER AK-74 HAD
.....BEGUN TO APPEAR IN THE LOCAL ARMS MARKET FETCHING
.....ABOUT DOLS 4500 CLAIMED THAT THIS SHOWED
.....THAT THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE WAS KILLING OR CAPTURING
.....SOVIET PARATROOPERS AS THESE WERE THE ONLY TROOPS
.....ALLEGEDLY IN POSSESSION OF AK-74S.

19 CLAIMED THAT MUJHADEEN HAD
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TOLD HIM THAT THEY WERE VERY ACTIVE NORTH OF KABUL
AND EVEN CARRYING OUT SOME RAIDS INTO THE SOVIET
UNION ALLEGEDLY DESTROYING SMALL BORDER POSTS AND
STEALING ANIMALS. | ALSO STATED THAT RECENTLY
FREEDOM FIGHTERS NEAR JALALABAD HAD CAPTURED A
TRUCK CARRYING MAIL FROM SOVIET SOLDIERS WHICH REVEALED
THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE LONELY, SCARED AND DEMORALIZED.
THIS THEME WAS REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES BY MUJAHIDEEN
AND PAKISTANIS: SOVIET TROOPS WERE SUPPOSEDLY INCREASING

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23. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SPIERS